



IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

Published by
the Rebuild Iowa Office

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Steam Energy</i>	2
<i>New Hartford Workshop</i>	2
<i>Flood Insurance Questions</i>	3

**Safer, Stronger,
Smarter**

www.rio.iowa.gov

STATE PROGRAM HELPS FUND 177 NEW HOUSING UNITS IN CEDAR RAPIDS

On July 9, the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) and Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) announced the successful results of a new statewide housing program.

The Single Family New Construction Program was created earlier this year to help solve the housing shortage around the state.

In Cedar Rapids, the program will help fund the construction of 177 new housing units, including 94 single family homes and 83 condominiums, in 2009. Twenty local builders and developers participated in the program. The combined total for all of



Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director, speaks at a Cedar Rapids development utilizing the state's Single Family New Construction Program.

these construction projects is \$25,718,341.

Through the Single Family New Construction Program, eligible property owners are offered assistance up to 30% of the purchase price of a new housing unit built for less than \$180,000. That

means the program is providing a total subsidy of \$7,513,902 for the 177 new housing units in Cedar Rapids. Construction has already begun on most of these properties. The target completion date is

(Continued on page 4)

RIO RELEASES JULY QUARTERLY REPORT

On July 10, the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) released its July Quarterly Report. The report discusses success stories and outlines the challenges of long-term recovery while giving specific examples of community rebuilding efforts, individual case management statistics and more.

The 90-page report details the economic recovery strategy in housing; business; workforce development; infrastructure investments; individual services and guidance; local economic recovery; smart growth; mitigation planning; floodplain and watershed management; floodplain mapping; quality of life; and

emergency management.

The report also includes an updated selection of charts showing the flow of federal and state disaster recovery funding to the state, counties, cities and individuals affected by the 2008 disasters.

"This Quarterly Report shows disaster recovery

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR CEDAR RAPIDS STEAM ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On July 2, state and local officials announced a new Steam Energy Assistance Program for Cedar Rapids. The program is designed to provide financial support to the low and high pressure steam users that relied on Alliant Energy's Sixth Street or Prairie Creek plant in Cedar Rapids. Program benefits are designed to support two key areas including conversion costs to independent energy sources and high steam bills received by customers post-flood due to the high cost of operating the traditional community steam system.

The total program has been allocated \$21 million and will be distributed as follows:

- \$8 million for conversion costs to low pressure users,
- \$8 million for conversion costs to high pressure users and
- \$5 million for post flood steam bill assistance.

Approximately \$5 million in state funds for the program has been approved, while the remaining \$16 million is pending approval by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



City and State officials announce the Cedar Rapids Steam Energy Assistance Program on July 2.

To be eligible for this program, applicants must be or have been a steam customer of Alliant Energy in Cedar Rapids using either the Sixth Street or Prairie Creek plant. Applicants must complete the on-line application at www.corridorrecovery.org using the Small Business Portal Application between Monday, July 6 and Friday, July 31, 2009; no extensions will be

granted for filing applications.

The timely completion of the application is required, regardless of the status of the applicant's project.

For further details on the Cedar Rapids Steam Energy Assistance Program, call the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce at 319-398-5317.

NEW HARTFORD TO HOST GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORKSHOP ON STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

A two-day workshop in New Hartford July 16 and 17 will focus on finding environmentally friendly and sustainable ways to manage storm water run-off.

The workshop and open houses are a result of New Hartford being selected earlier this year as one of five disaster-impacted Iowa communities to participate in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program. The Smart Growth program will specifically provide New Hartford

technical assistance to plan improvements regarding storm water management.

The first open house is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. July 16 at the Community Building at York and Broadway Streets, and will be used to educate the public on green infrastructure (more environmentally friendly ways to deal with issues such as city storm sewers) and what type of funding and assistance is currently available. Lessons learned at the New Hartford workshop can also be applied in other Iowa communities with storm

water management issues.

On July 17, an open house from 6 to 8 p.m., also at the Community Building, will concentrate on potential solutions specific to New Hartford. Individuals involved in the event will come up with solutions during the workshop.

For more information about the workshop or the open houses, contact Bert Cantu, New Hartford City Council member at 319-983-2065.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING FLOOD INSURANCE

Close to 3,000 Iowans have signed up for flood insurance less than one year after the floods of June 2008 inundated the state. Despite that growth, less than 20 percent of single family homes located in Iowa's Special Flood Hazard Areas – areas where the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has identified as high-risk flood areas – have flood insurance.

Officials at both the state and federal level understand that Iowans may still have questions regarding flood insurance and the need to purchase a policy. Here are some frequently asked questions concerning flood insurance:

How can I get flood insurance?

If you live in a community that participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you are eligible to purchase flood insurance. To buy a flood insurance policy, call your insurance agent or company, or call FloodSmart.gov at 1-888-379-9531.

What will my flood insurance premium cost?

It is essential that you visit with your insurance agent to determine exact costs.

How is my flood insurance premium calculated?

A number of factors are considered when determining your flood insurance premium. These factors include: the amount and type of coverage being purchased, location and flood zone, and the design and age of your structure. For homes in high-risk areas built after the first Flood Insurance Rate Maps were drawn for that community, the elevation of the building in relation to the base flood elevation is also required.

How can I pay for my flood insurance?

You can pay your insurance premium with a credit card or with cash, check or money order. Your premium may be paid through an escrow account established by your mortgage lender, at your lender's discretion.

If your lender requires you to buy flood insurance and escrows for other types of insurance or taxes, they are required to

also escrow flood insurance premium payments. Your payment for coverage is due to your agent with your application. For details, ask your insurance agent or lender.

Will there be a waiting period for my policy to take effect?

There is generally a 30-day waiting period from the time an insurance policy is purchased to when it actually goes into effect.

What is the policy term for NFIP insurance?

One year.

Does a deductible apply to my coverage?

Building and contents policies have separate deductibles for each. This means that if your building and contents are both damaged due to a flood event, both deductibles are applied.

Is there a 'grace period' after a policy has expired?

All policies expire at 12:01 a.m. on the last day of the effective term, but you remain covered for 30 days after the expiration of the policy. Claims for losses that occur in this grace period will be honored, provided that the full renewal premium is paid by the end of the 30-day period.

Will damage-preventing measures I've taken in my home be reimbursed by my Standard Flood Insurance Policy?

Some will be. When your insured home is in eminent danger of being flooded, you may receive up to a \$1,000 reimbursement for your damage-preventing expenses. Things like renting storage space to protect your belongings, buying sandbags and lumber to make a barricade, and renting pumps are all things that qualify for reimbursement.

For more information about NFIP, the types of policies available and a list of agencies that sell flood insurance, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-888-379-9531.

-Courtesy of FEMA

Less than 20 percent of single-family homes in Iowa's high-risk flood areas have flood insurance

The Rebuild Iowa Office



The Rebuild Iowa Office is tasked with ensuring that the state rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before the 2008 disasters. The RIO is supported by a professional staff made up of existing state employees and hired full-time staff to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

www.rio.iowa.gov

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE

**Wallace State Office Building
502 E. Ninth Street
Des Moines, IA 50319**

**Phone: 515.242.5004
Toll-free: 866.849.0323
E-mail: contact@rio.iowa.gov**

NEW HOUSING (continued from page 1)

December 31, 2009 for transfer of title to new owners.

Qualified applicants must be at or below 100% of Area Median Income by household size established by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). All assisted homebuyers must be able to support a mortgage as evidenced by a firm loan commitment and must maintain the property as their primary residence for five years.

Assistance from this program cannot be combined with the Federal Jumpstart Homebuyer Assistance or State Jumpstart Down Payment Assistance programs for the same house or owner.

Houses eligible for this program cannot be located in the 100-year floodplain. Properties must be single family dwellings, single family unit condominiums or modular homes on permanent foundations. The housing units must be built by an approved builder and cannot exceed \$180,000.

To learn more about the Single Family New Construction program and how you can get involved, contact your local Council of Government or Entitlement City representative or visit www.rio.iowa.gov.

QUARTERLY REPORT (continued from page 1)

progress in a number of areas and details the work our staff has been doing in partnership with disaster-affected communities and other local, state and federal agencies, over the last three months," said Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, RIO's executive director. "In addition, the report discusses the challenges and complexities of long-term recovery and the ongoing need to make changes in some programs at the federal level. It is imperative Iowans remain knowledgeable about the state's

recovery efforts and that the RIO office, along with other state agencies and departments, continue to remain transparent during the recovery process."

This is the RIO's second Quarterly Report since the Office was formalized in February. The RIO's next report will be released in October.

To access the July Quarterly Report, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

Clip & Save...

Federal Agencies

General FEMA Information	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
FEMA Fraud Detection	800.323.8603
National Flood Insurance Program	800.427.4661
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.427.5593
Social Security Administration	800.772.1213
U.S. Small Business Administration	800.659.2955
Internal Revenue Service	800.829.1040
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.829.4059
Tax-Related Disaster Relief	866.562.5227
Housing & Urban Development Hotline	800.669.9777
Department of Veterans Affairs	800.827.0648

Iowa Contacts

For up-to-date disaster and recovery information visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

If you have questions about consumer fraud, contact Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division
888.777.4590 or 515.281.5926

To volunteer or make donations, contact:
Iowa Concern Hotline 800.447.1985

Disaster Unemployment Information 800.JOB.IOWA

Iowa Mortgage Help 877.622.4866 or
www.IowaMortgageHelp.com

Project Recovery Iowa crisis counseling
(call the Iowa Concerns Hotline) 800.447.1985

Iowa Other Needs Assistance 800.659.2955

Other Needs Assistance 866.434.4692